



*Dear Contestants,*

*Welcome to the Fourth Witold Lutoslawski International Cello Competition. I believe it will bring you long-lasting memories and that you will remember it with pleasure.*

*For us, the organizers, each Competition is a unique artistic event, with you as its co-creators. We are aware of the fact that you worked very hard to get ready for the contest, and that each performance brings a lot of stress. I want to assure you that we appreciate your dedication, and admire your efforts and readiness to subject your art to the judgment of your older colleagues, the Jurors.*

*The fact that you prepared a very difficult and ambitious program is a success in itself. The rules of the Competition allow for only three Laureates. It is obvious that each of you would like to become one of them, it should be like this. However, giving yourself the right to become a Laureate you, at the same time, admit that each of your co-contestants has a right to the same. I believe that while being competitors, you remain, first of all, members of the same Family of Cellists with a common love for the cello. We have founded this Competition for you, but not just for the sake of competing and winning against each other. We wanted to give you an opportunity to meet with your colleagues from other countries for the sake of a mutual recognition and exchange of experience, for everything that can nourish the virtues of sharing your art with others.*

*This competition is not an exam, you will not get grades. It will not decide your future life and carrier. It may help you, but first of all it should bring you a joy of participation in this Festival of the Cello. If you assumed that this Competition is to bring you either success or disappointment, then.... think again.*

*Bogdan PAŁOSZ*

**Warsaw, February 2003**